REMARKS

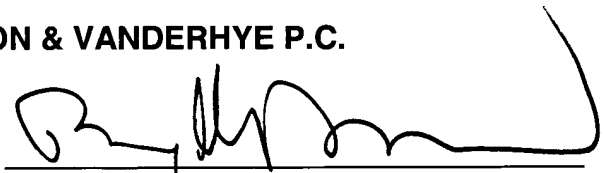
This amendment is being filed in advance of a formal Appeal Brief and Notice of Appeal against the Examiner's twice rejecting the claims under 35 USC §112, second paragraph on the basis that the claims allegedly lack "omitted essential steps". Therefore, entry of this Amendment so as to reduce the issues presented for purpose of appeal is requested and is in order.

Specifically, by way of the amendment instructions above, claims 13-16 have been revised so as to address antecedent bases issues therein.[1]

Applicants are perplexed by the Examiner's statement that Example 3 is missing from the originally specification. A search of the USPTO's Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) database confirms that, although the header for Example 3 was orphaned from its following text, the header for Example 3 is in fact present in the last line of paragraph [0029] on page 6 of the originally filed application. Thus Example 3 is described in paragraphs [0030]-[0034]. No amendment to the specification as suggested by the Examiner therefore is needed. As such, withdrawal of the specification objection is in order.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 

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[1] It is noted that the Examiner's reference to claim 14 on page 3, lines 11-12 of the May 16, 2006 Office Action should have probably been to claim 15 as the expression quoted appears in the latter and not the former. At the same time, however, applicants noted that "the ratio" in claims 14 and 16 could have prompted a similar objection from the Examiner. In order to advance prosecution, therefore, each of claims 13-16 were revised so as to render moot any possible antecedent basis objection that could be raised thereagainst.